

been cut,” he confessed, “for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else.” ¹⁹ Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down, and his strength left him. Judges 16:15-17.19 (NLT)

Judges 16:20 is one of the saddest verses in the Bible:

Then she cried out, “Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!” When he woke up, he thought, “I will do as before and shake myself free.” But he didn’t realize the _____ had left him.

So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison. Judges 16:21 (NLT)

Sin _____ you.

Sin _____ you.

Sin _____ you.

Judges 16:22 is one of the most hopeful verse in the Bible:

But before long, his hair began to grow back. Judges 16:22 (NLT)

Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “Sovereign LORD, remember me again.

O God, please strengthen me just one more time...Judges 16:28a (NLT)

How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. ³³By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions,³⁴ quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.

Hebrews 11:32-24 (NLT)

And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” ⁴³And He said to him, “*Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.*” Luke 23:42,43 (NASB)

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Pastor David Redmond

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Lessons from the life of Samson

“For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.” Judges 13:5 (NASB)

Samson’s life begins with great promise. The answer to a prayer of his aging parents, before his birth he was set aside as a man to be greatly used of God. . He had everything going for him: a great start, a godly home, he was gifted, witty, good looking, and strong, very strong. Samson’s strength enabled him to do great exploits, but it was his inner weaknesses that eventually brought him down. What happened? Samson made daily choices over time that sapped the spiritual strength out of his life. His life serves as a warning against relying on our own power, and serves as an example of the incredible grace of God that redeems a life. His story is found in Judges chapters 13-16.

Samson = “_____” or “_____”

Delilah = “_____” or “brought _____”

What are some warning signs in Samson’s life?

Samson lived mostly _____.

His life was controlled by his _____ not his _____.

One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. Judges 16:1 (NIV)

He convinced himself that he was in _____.

...and he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." Judges 16:20 (NASB)

"You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

Genesis 4:7 (NLT)

A undisciplined life whispers things in our thoughts like:
"Just this _____", "You _____ this", "No one will _____".

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Galatians 5:24-25 (NLT)

**Samson lived with some _____
that became _____.**

"Samson said to them, 'This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines. I'll really harm them. ⁷Samson said to them, 'Since you acted like this, I won't stop until I get revenge on you.' ⁸He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them... ¹¹... 'I merely did to them what they did to me.'" Judges 15:3,7,8,11 (NIV)

Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple. Job 5:2 (NIV)

Resentment is a waste of _____.

A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but the resentment caused by a fool is even heavier. Proverbs 27:3 (NLT)

Resentment is a waste of _____.

The godless in heart harbor resentment; even when He fetters them, they do not cry for help. Job 36:13 (NIV)

And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:30-32 (NLT)

Resentment is nurtured by _____.

Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back. Proverbs 29:11 (NLT)

Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men. ¹⁶ Then Samson said, "With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men." ¹⁷ When he finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was called Ramath Lehi. ¹⁸ Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the LORD, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" ¹⁹ Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi.

Judges 15:15-19 (NIV)

Samson possessed an _____ spirit.

Samson ignored wise _____.

One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. ² When he returned home, he told his father and mother, "A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me." ³ His father and mother objected. "Isn't there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?" they asked. "Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?"

Judges 14:1-3 (NLT)

Samson ignored God's _____.

Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. ⁶ The Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. ⁷ Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.

Judges 14:5-7 (NIV)

Samson ignored _____.

Then Delilah pouted, "How can you tell me, 'I love you,' when you don't share your secrets with me? You've made fun of me three times now, and you still haven't told me what makes you so strong!" ¹⁶ She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it. ¹⁷ Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. "My hair has never